

has reported that in September, 1991 a fraud involving an amount of about Rs. 250 lakhs in different branches of UCO Bank was reported. On the basis of FIR lodged with the police, the police, have arrested an Officer of Kalol branch and a Clerk of Navrangpura branch of UCO Bank, the suspected mastermind and his accomplice. The Officer of the bank has been suspended from bank's service. The concerned Clerk was already under suspension for his involvement in another case of misappropriation. The bank has also requested the Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation.

NTC Mills Running In loss

2562. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTIELS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of N.T.C. mills which are running in heavy loss;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision about the future of these mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTIELS (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) During 1990-91, out of 122 mills in operation under NTC, only 40 mills made cash profits and the remaining incurred cash losses.

(b) to (c). In order to improve the performance of National Textile Corporation, various alternatives are under consideration, at various levels. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

[English]

Export of Engineering Goods

2563. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide adequate assistance and incentives to help promote the export of engineering goods; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b). Government have already been providing adequate assistance and incentives to help promote the export of engineering goods. Some of the important incentives which were being given include grant of Cash Compensatory Support, provision of inputs for exports at international prices, supply of export finance at concessional rates, replenishment licence facility, import of capital goods at concessional rate for export production, warehousing facility for export to European countries, extension of lines of credit to various countries for importing Indian engineering goods and market entry support which provides finance for the product liability insurance for export to developed markets.

While the scheme to provide cash Compensatory Support has been withdrawn from 3.7.91, additional incentives have recently been made available for exports of engineering goods and other items. These additional incentives include restructuring the replenishment scheme to provide for grant of Exim Scrips in place of replenishment licences at the uniform rate of 30% of f.o.b. value, grant of 10% additional Exim Scrips for exports of high technology engineering products and strengthening and streamlining of the advance licence system.

Gold Smuggling

2564. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of gold continues to be on the increase;

(b) the quantity and value of the gold seized (Domestic and International) in India in 1985-86 and till October, 1987;

(c) the areas and regions where smuggling has increased;

(d) the airports where maximum seizures have been reported during the last three years; and

(e) the preventive measures taken to stop smuggling of gold and plug the loop holes in anti-smuggling measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). Since smuggling is calandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether the smuggling of gold has been increasing. However, available reports indicate that the West Coast of India, the land borders with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh and the International airports located at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum continued to be especially sensitive to the smuggling of gold into India.

The quantity and value of gold seized in India in the calender years 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto October) are given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (in kgs.)</i>	<i>Value of gold seized (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1985	2525	5189
1986	2174	4666
1987 (upto October)	1804	5001

(e) The anti-smuggling agencies are on the alert to check smuggling of contraband including gold. The emerging trends and new modus operandi are being studied and disseminated to the field formations for ob-

taining better results. Close co-ordination is also being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the prevention and detection of smuggling. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly used.

Seizure of Brown Sugar at Madras Airport

2565. SHRI N.DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether brown sugar was seized at the Madras airport during August, 1991; and

(b) if so, the quantity and value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6.035 Kgs of Heroin (which is also known as Brown Sugar) was seized at Madras International Airport by Customs authorities on 22.8.1991. No precise valuation of heroin, which is often of indeterminate chemical strength and composition, and is liable for destruction, is feasible.

Recovery of Excise Duty from Cigarette Manufacturing Companies

2566. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of excise duty outstanding against each of the cigarette manufacturing companies as on September 1, 1991;

(b) the latest position of recovery of these dues from each of these companies; and

(c) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken for their recovery?